

THE GREAT LAKES WATER
PROTECTION ACT**HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 6, 2009

Mr. KIRK. Madam Speaker, today I am pleased to join with Congressman LIPINSKI to introduce the Great Lakes Water Protection Act. This bipartisan legislation, supported by the Alliance for the Great Lakes, National Resources Defense Council, National Wildlife Foundation, National Parks Conservation Association, Great Lakes Aquatic Network, Audubon Society and more, would set a date certain to end sewage dumping in America's largest supply of fresh water, the Great Lakes. More than thirty million Americans depend on the Great Lakes for their drinking water, food, jobs, and recreation. We need to put a stop to the poisoning of our water supply. Cities along the Great Lakes must become environmental stewards of our country's most precious freshwater ecosystem.

The Great Lakes Water Protection Act gives cities until 2029 to build the full infrastructure needed to prevent sewage dumping into the Great Lakes. Those who violate EPA sewage dumping regulations after that federal deadline will be subject to fines up to \$100,000 for every day they are in violation. These fines will be directed to a newly established Great Lakes Clean-Up Fund within the Clean Water State Revolving Fund. Penalties collected would go into this fund and be reallocated to the states surrounding the Great Lakes. From there, the funds will be spent on wastewater treatment options, with a special focus on greener solutions such as habitat protection and wetland restoration.

This legislation is sorely needed. Many major cities along the Great Lakes do not have the infrastructure needed to divert sewage overflows during times of heavy rainfall. More than twenty-four billion gallons of sewage are dumped into the Lakes each year; Detroit alone dumped over thirteen billion gallons of sewage into Lake Huron in 2005.

These disastrous practices result in thousands of annual beach closing for the region's 815 freshwater beaches. Illinois faced 793 beach closures and health advisories in 2007, up more than thirty percent from 2006. Six beaches in my district alone exceeded health standards more than 25 percent of the time. This greatly affects the health of our children and families—EPA estimates suggest that nearly 300 people could expect to contract a respiratory illness after swimming in Lake Michigan in Chicago on one summer weekend. This trend is echoed throughout the Great Lakes region and is one we need to reverse.

Protecting our Great Lakes is one of my top priorities in the Congress. As an original cosponsor of the Great Lakes Restoration Act, I favor a broad approach to addressing needs in the region. However, we must also move forward with tailored approaches to fix specific problems as we continue to push for more comprehensive reform. I am proud to introduce this important legislation that addresses a key problem facing our Great Lakes, and hope my colleagues will support me in ensuring that these important resources become free from the threat of sewage pollution.

RECOGNIZING JOSEPHINE BOYLAN
OF SPRING HILL, FLORIDA**HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 6, 2009

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Josephine Boylan of Hernando County, Florida. Josephine has done something that all of us strive to do, but that very few of us will ever accomplish, celebrate her 100th birthday.

Josephine Boylan was born October 3, 1908 in Lebanon, New York. After attending school in Lebanon, she went to work as a seamstress and eventually married Vincent Boylan. Josephine had three children and eight grandchildren, with too many great grandchildren for her to count.

Living in Orlando until 1975, Josephine then moved to Tucson, Arizona for three years before returning to Florida in 1979. Since then she has lived in Spring Hill in Hernando County, where her grandson also lives. She is very proud of her grandson, and lists his graduation from MIT as one of the greatest moments of her life.

Still living an active lifestyle, Josephine enjoys playing bingo with her friends. She has fond memories of her son Jerry playing the organ with everyone singing during the holidays and remembers sitting on the back porch with Vincent while they were dating. As someone who loves to sing herself, Josephine has said that if she could live her life over again she would be an opera singer. If she could give advice to young people today she would tell them to have fun and work hard.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join me in honoring Josephine Boylan for reaching her 100th birthday. I hope we all have the good fortune to live as long as her.

“STORMS ON THE HORIZON”

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 6, 2009

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I have never been more concerned about the short- and long-term budget shortfalls we face as a Nation. We must work to address these issues simultaneously in a bipartisan way.

Last October the Washington Post reported that China had replaced Japan as the United States' largest creditor, increasing its holding by 42 percent over the past year. On December 15, the U.S. Department of the Treasury released the “FY 2008 Financial Report of the Federal Government.” Not only is America facing a projected \$1 trillion in deficit spending for this fiscal year, there is now \$56 trillion in unfunded mandates through Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid, a number which will only continue to grow and has increased by \$3 trillion in the last year alone. Funding the deficit means that U.S. must attract approximately \$2 billion a day from foreign countries or risk a drop in the value of the dollar.

I believe that this is an economic, moral, and generational issue. Is it right for one generation to live very well knowing that its debts will be left to be paid by their children and grandchildren?

In the past few days numerous sources have reported that the economic stimulus bill on the agenda of the soon to be Obama administration is expected to cost between \$675 billion and \$775 billion. Other reports say it could expand to as much as \$1 trillion. Whatever package is passed, Congress has a historic opportunity to work in a bipartisan way to address the Nation's looming financial crisis by including a mechanism to deal with the underlying problem of autopilot spending. The bipartisan SAFE Commission I introduced with Rep. JIM COOPER in the 110th Congress would create a national commission to review entitlements with everything—including tax policy—on the table. This idea garnered the support of over 100 members during the 110th Congress. Senate Budget Committee Chairman KENT CONRAD and ranking member JUDD GREGG introduced similar legislation, which has also gained momentum. The time is now.

I share with our colleagues a speech by Richard W. Fisher, president of the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas. “Storms on the Horizon” is a sobering account from a monetary policymaker's point of view on why deficits matter. Mr. Fisher calls the mathematics of doing nothing to change the long-term outlook for entitlements, “nothing short of catastrophic.”

The 111th Congress will have on its watch this unfolding reality. What will we do to make a difference for our country's—and our children's and grandchildren's—future?

STORMS ON THE HORIZON: REMARKS BEFORE THE COMMONWEALTH CLUB OF CALIFORNIA, SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA, MAY 28, 2008

(By Richard W. Fisher)

Thank you, Bruce [Ericson]. I am honored to be here this evening and am grateful for the invitation to speak to the Commonwealth Club of California.

Alan Greenspan and Paul Volcker, two of Ben Bernanke's linear ancestors as chairmen of the Federal Reserve, have been in the news quite a bit lately. Yet, we rarely hear about William McChesney Martin, a magnificent public servant who was Fed chairman during five presidencies and to this day holds the record for the longest tenure: 19 years.

Chairman Martin had a way with words. And he had a twinkle in his eye. It was Bill Martin who wisely and succinctly defined the Federal Reserve as having the unenviable task “to take away the punch-bowl just as the party gets going.” He did himself one up when he received the Alfalfa Club's nomination for the presidency of the United States. I suspect many here tonight have been to the annual Alfalfa dinner. It is one of the great institutions in Washington, D.C. Once a year, it holds a dinner devoted solely to poking fun at the political pretensions of the day. Tongue firmly in cheek, the club nominates a candidate to run for the presidency on the Alfalfa Party ticket. Of course, none of them ever win. Nominees are thenceforth known for evermore as members of the Stassen Society, named for Harold Stassen, who ran for president nine times and lost every time, then ran a tenth time on the Alfalfa ticket and lost again. The motto of the group is *Veni, Vidi, Defici*—“I came, I saw, I lost.”

Bill Martin was nominated to run and lose on the Alfalfa Party ticket in 1966, while serving as Fed chairman during Lyndon Johnson's term. In his acceptance speech, he announced that, given his proclivities as a central banker, he would take his cues from the German philosopher Goethe, “who said that people could endure anything except